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22 December 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT: Processing Requests for Agent Clearance.

1. Reference is made to your memorandum of 8 August, copy attached.
2. The undersigned brought this problem up under the conditions and the climate of a Seminar and was talking as a "trainee" rather than in my official capacity. The points mentioned in paragraph 2 are valid but will eventually require rather intricate and involved procedural changes, some of which have been highly controversial in the past, both within the Agency and within the DD/P itself.
3. The CI Staff, DD/P, and the Office of Security have organized a standing committee that is continually trying to improve the covert clearance procedures. This is working and when the new CI Staff has completed its build-up, I believe we can more directly attack these problems. In the interim, and because this covert clearance procedure was the subject of an acrimonious debate for years prior to the present agreement, I believe that no direct action should be taken at this time. I assure you I will follow the matter and attempt improvements at the proper time.


Sheffield Edwards
Director of Security

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Attachment: One
DD/S memo of 8/8/55.

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